

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). The Senator from Washington. Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, we are about to take two votes, and I will speak on both of them for just a few minutes.

NOMINATION OF JAMES RICHARD KVAAL

Mr. President, right now, many students in higher education across the country are back on campus for the start of a new school year, and although I know many of them are excited to finally be able to return to their classrooms and their friends, there are still many challenges in higher education we need to tackle immediately, including keeping our students safe and healthy as the COVID-19 crisis continues.

We also cannot lose sight of the fact that student debt is at a historic high as borrowers across our country are drowning in student debt. The cost of higher education continues to rise, forcing students to give up on higher education dreams simply because they can't afford it. Predatory for-profit colleges continue to target first-generation students, students of color, and our veterans. Across the country, campus sexual assault, harassment, and discrimination, and systemic racism leave too many students feeling unsafe in their own school communities.

Students across our country deserve leaders who are committed to addressing these urgent problems and who will work to always put students and borrowers first. I believe James Kvaal is exactly that kind of leader, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination to serve as Under Secretary of Education. Mr. Kvaal's background reflects a deep commitment to our Nation's students and the experience needed to hit the ground running on day one.

As president of the Institute for College Access and Success, Mr. Kvaal fought to improve student outcomes and quality, reform Federal and State financial aid, support student loan borrowers, and increase State and Federal investments in higher education. He also has a long record in public service, including as Deputy Under Secretary of Education and as Deputy Director of the Domestic Policy Council in the Obama administration, where he helped strengthen college accountability, expand investments in Pell grants, and worked to ensure students had critical information about the outcomes of the colleges and universities they might attend.

To me, it is a clear vote to confirm Mr. Kvaal. It is a vote to support our students and borrowers and to help build a stronger, more equitable higher education system.

NOMINATION OF DAVID G. ESTUDILLO

Mr. President, the second vote we will take is on Judge Estudillo's confirmation, and I rise today in support of the nomination of Judge David Estudillo to serve as U.S. District Court judge for the Western District of Washington in the Tacoma courthouse.

I had the honor of recommending that President Biden nominate Judge Estudillo for this position, and I am so glad he did. Judge Estudillo is tremendously qualified for this job, currently serving in his third term as a Grant County Superior Court judge, and he is someone who will bring a powerful and important perspective to the Federal bench.

Let me tell you a little bit about him and the kind of person he is. He was born and raised in the Yakima Valley of Washington State. Judge Estudillo is the son of immigrants—the 9th child of 10—his parents coming here from Mexico through the Bracero Program. His mother and father were farmworkers until they were able to open up a small grocery store, where Judge Estudillo worked while growing up and through college.

He is someone who worked hard to give back to his community in working as an immigration lawyer. He represented clients in tough removal proceedings, successfully presenting and trying claims for asylum, cancellations of removal, and other forms of relief from deportation. He also consistently provided pro bono services at immigration legal clinics to help immigrants applying for citizenship and often presented information in Spanish about immigration policy and procedure all around the community.

That work as an immigration attorney is important to me because it means, when Judge Estudillo is in the Tacoma courthouse and Washington State families look up to the judge's bench—who maybe don't speak English or just aren't familiar with our court system—Judge Estudillo is someone who will make sure that every person who walks into his courtroom feels heard and that every person who walks out believes equal justice under the law is real in America.

Don't just take my word for it. The judge is endorsed by both the Republican and Democratic Parties of Grant County, where he first ran for his current post, and he was recommended to me by my Judicial Merit Selection Committee, which has both Republican and Democratic members. He has earned an outstanding reputation for leading a courtroom where everyone is treated with respect and dignity.

If we want people in this country to have faith in our Federal courts—an absolutely vital part of our democracy's checks and balance system—then we need to appoint judges who will serve with integrity and independence and who will reflect the communities they serve. I know Judge Estudillo will do exactly that. He will be an exceptional Federal district court judge for the Western District of Washington, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON KVAAL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will

the Senate advise and consent to the Kvaal nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 360 Ex.]

YEAS—58

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Romney
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Burr	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Capito	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Leahy	Smith
Carper	Lujan	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Cassidy	Markley	Van Hollen
Collins	Marshall	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Ossoff	
Gillibrand	Padilla	

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cornyn	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Kennedy	Sullivan
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Lummis	Toomey
Ernst	McConnell	Tuberville
Fischer	Moran	Wicker
Grassley	Paul	
Hagerty	Portman	

NOT VOTING—5

Braun	Rounds	Young
Murkowski	Schatz	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the